

REMARKS

The above amendment are in response to the June 13, 2006 office action.

The amendment avoids the rejection of the claim over Yamanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,347,213) in view of Gates (U.S. Patent No. 3,958,800) because Yamanaka et al. pivot the sheet feeder about an axis perpendicular to the axis about which the sheets are fed. In Yamanaka et al. pivoting the sheet feeder with sheets in the operable position would cause the sheets to fall out of the sheet holder.

The rejection of the claim over Goliez (U.S. Patent No. 4,928,944) in view of Japanese Publication No. 4-303350 appears to be in error. The Japanese publication shows feed platform 10 to be pivotable with respect to sheet transport 104 that conveys the sheets from the platform. The Japanese publication does not teach or suggest a feed table with movable belts that is hinged upwardly with respect to a sheet feeder with movable belts. Using the Japanese publication to modify Goliez for this feature would result in making the feed pedestal 22 in Goliez pivotable with respect to the ramp assembly 24. This would not be an obvious modification and even if it were it would not result in the invention recited in applicant's claim. Moreover, modification of Goliez as suggested in the office action "to provide the Goliez patent with hinge points about which the Goliez feeder (including 22 and 24) can be pivoted" because such would destroy the mechanism of Goliez, see especially the spring collar 87 and related members described at column 7, lines 25-49.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested. If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that resolution can be promptly effected.

It is believed that no additional fees are due at this time. However, the Office is authorized to charge and additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 12-0913, with reference to Attorney Docket No. 39152-94935.

Respectfully submitted,

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